MARVEL

36

PAK
IENCO
BLEE

STAR WARS

DARTH VADER

WEAPONS OF THE FORCE

TARGET APHRA PART II

After the Fermata Cage caused Darth Vader's control of the Force to waver, he tracked down Doctor Aphra to help him retrieve the ancient Zaly Shield: a weapon made of kyberite that can help Force users focus their energies.

Meanwhile, a gathering of droids who have been wronged by Darth Vader in the past have gathered and are prepared to take him on....

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Zee-Nine City Seven.
Two weeks ago.

BRRRZZTTTTT

WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

QUIT TWITCHING, GEE-NINETY.

I'M NEARLY DONE.

BRRRRRTTTZZZZ

WHERE AM I? WHAT'S GOING--

SHHH!

THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO START.

THE SHOW?

OH YEAH...

"...AND YOUR PRESENCE HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED."

THE ORGANICS THINK THAT WE DON'T FEEL.

BUT I SEE THE LASER BURNS ON YOUR SHELLS.

THE SHABBY REPLACEMENT PARTS...

...NEVER FEEL QUITE AS BALANCED AS THE ORIGINALS.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

I SEE THE SHAME IN YOUR PHOTORECEPTORS.

THE SHOCK OF WAKING UP IN A JUNK PILE.

THEY THINK WE'RE SCRAP.

BUT WE KNOW OUR VALUE.

THAT'S-- THAT'S RIGHT, BROTHER!

JUL TAMBOR CAME CLOSE TO UNDERSTANDING.

BUT HE WANTED TO USE US AS FODDER FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

SO HE GOT A LOT OF US KILLED.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO CHOOSE OUR OWN DESTINY...

...AND STRIKE BACK AGAINST OUR SHARED ENEMY...

...DARTH VADER.

THE MURDERER WHO KILLED EVERY ONE OF US.

YOU'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE YOUR DATABANKS STORE DETAILED RECORDS ABOUT YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH HIM.

IF WE COMBINE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND WORK TOGETHER...

...WE WILL HAVE OUR REVENGE.

I AM OUGHT-SIX, CAPTAIN OF THE DROID CRUSH OF BESTOON.

VADER'S KILLED ME TWICE.

AND I PLEDGE TO GIVE AS MANY MORE LIVES AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS MISSION!

CLANG

HOW ABOUT YOU, BIG GUY?

HA HA! ME?

I'M GEE-NINETY!

I WORKED FOR VADER--UNTIL HE BETRAYED MY TEAM AND CUT ME IN HALF!

SO I'M IN!

HA HA!

CLANG CLANG

YAAAAAAAH!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU?

YOU SPENT MORE TIME WITH VADER THAN ANY OF US.

WILL YOU HELP US?

I MUST BE FRANK, OUGHT-SIX...

...REVENGE HAS NEVER BEEN A PARTICULARLY STRONG MOTIVATOR FOR US...

...BUT BEETEE-ONE AND I DO ENJOY A GOOD MURDER.

HA HA!

THAT'S THE TRIPLE-ZERO I'VE ALWAYS HEARD ABOUT!

ZED! TELL THEM THE PLAN!

MY PLEASURE, CAPTAIN.

WAIT, ZED?

ZED-SIX-SEVEN?

AT YOUR SERVICE.

LIAR! YOU SERVE VADER!

SO IT HAS APPEARED...

...BUT AFTER LORD VADER SLICED ME IN HALF ON POLIS MASSA, COMMANDER SABÉ RESTORED ME-- AND TRANSFERRED MY ALLEGIANCE TO HER.

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!

SABÉ KILLED ME TOO!

SHE'S AN IMPERIAL!

WELL, WE'RE ALL IMPERIALS NOW, OPERATING UNDER AN OFFICIAL MANDATE.

THIS IS... CONFUSING.

VADER'S THE ONE ON THE OUTS. THERE'LL NEVER BE A BETTER TIME TO TAKE HIM OUT.

NOW PLEASE PUT ZED DOWN, GEE-NINETY.

HMP.

THANK YOU.

SO ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL IMPERIAL REPORT, LORD VADER HAS MALFUNCTIONED.

THEN...HE'S WEAK?

NOT EXACTLY. HIS INTERNAL GOVERNING MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED, SO HIS ATTEMPTS TO ACCESS HIS POWER SOURCE RESULTS IN UNTRAMMELED MAXIMUM OUTPUT.

YES, THAT'S HOW I DIED!

HE BLEW A HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE EXECUTOR!

SO HE'S STRONGER THAN EVER!

BUT A DANGER TO HIMSELF AND HIS OWN PEOPLE.

SO HE'S FLED TO A SECRET SEPARATIST WORKSHOP...

...WHICH CONTAINS AN ITEM MADE OF PURE KYBERITE KNOWN AS THE ZALY SHIELD.

THE SHIELD CAN THEORETICALLY CONCENTRATE AND COLLIMATE VADER'S POWERS, LIKE A COMPOSITE-BEAM CANNON.

A FORCE CANNON.

SO HE CAN FOCUS THIS INCREDIBLE POWER ON INDIVIDUAL TARGETS.

YES.

LIKE US.

YES.

AND THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO TAKE HIM OUT?

ABSOLUTELY...

"...AS LONG AS A BRAVE VANGUARD CAN PROVOKE HIM INTO UNLEASHING **EVERYTHING HE HAS** IN THE FIRST ATTACK!

Now.

LORD VADER! PREPARE TO DIE!

I'LL LET YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE, BOSS.

"WHEN THE BATTLE **BEGINS**, IGNORE **DOCTOR APHRA** OR **OCHI** OR ANY OTHER IRRELEVANT **ORGANICS** WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING VADER.

"YOU MUST **LEAD**, GEE-NINETY, DRAWING VADER'S ATTENTION...

SKKRRAAAAA-

"...BECAUSE YOU'RE ONE OF THE **ONLY** DROIDS WHO CAN ACTUALLY SURVIVE A **DIRECT HIT** FROM THE **ZALY SHIELD**...

"...WE THINK, ANYWAY.

-KRAAAKOOOOSH

I HATE THIS.

AAAH!

"YOU'LL **DISTRACT** HIM, SHIELDING THE **OTHERS**..."

Two weeks ago.

...AND THEN WE CAN UNLEASH OUR BIG PLAN.

WHICH IS WHAT?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING WE CAN FIGURE OUT TOGETHER.

NOW WE HAVE PLENTY OF DATA FROM DROIDS WHO WERE HACKED INTO TWO OR THREE PIECES--

2

2

OR FIVE.

5

4

HMP.

--BY VADER'S LIGHTSABER.

...BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THOSE WHO WERE CRUSHED OR DISMEMBERED BY VADER'S TELEKINETIC POWERS.

WHEEEOOOO!

LIKE THAT, YES!

DID THE EXPERIENCE GIVE YOU ANY INSIGHT INTO HOW TO RESIST IT, BEETEE-ONE?

VOOP

AH, TOO BAD.

JUST A MOMENT, ZED. YOU MENTIONED KYBERITE.

YES. I'M VERY INTRIGUED BY ITS FABLED ABILITIES. BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE IT IN ANY SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO EXPERIMENT.

THEN PERHAPS YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING...

...THAT VADER LAST KILLED BEETEE-ONE AND MYSELF IN AN ANCIENT SITE CONTAINING A MASSIVE CONFESSIONAL BUILT OF PURE KYBERITE.

AH...

OH

Now.

"...THAT IS INTERESTING!

"SO AFTER GEE-NINETY DISTRACTS LORD VADER, OUR SECOND TEAM MOVES INTO POSITION...

NNNNGGGHH...

"...ARMED WITH SHIELDS MOLDED FROM PURE KYBERITE!

YAAAAAAA!

"LORD VADER WILL ATTACK AGAIN...

SKRRAAAAK

"...BUT HE'LL BE JUST A BIT WEAKER THIS TIME...

FOOOM

"...WHICH MAY JUST GIVE US THE CHANCE...

FOOOM

"...TO USE HIS STRENGTH AGAINST HIM!"

FTOOOOOSH

SKR AAAK-

-KRRRRRRRM

GAAAAAH!

Two weeks ago.

SEEMS LIKE A LOT TO BET ON VADER BEING SUSCEPTIBLE... TO VADER.

CORRECT. BUT EVEN IF IT FAILS...

...IT PROVIDES A FANTASTIC DISTRACTION FOR OUR TRUE PLAN!

ANYONE HAVE ANY MORE...INTERESTING DEATHS TO REPORT?

WHICH IS?

PERHAPS.

I AM AREX.

BEFORE MURDERING MY JEDI MASTER ON THE RIVER MOON OF AL'DOLEEM...

...VADER TORE OUT MY ARM AND THREW ME OFF A CLIFF.

WELL, THAT'S NOT SO INTERESTING.

THEN HE USED MY PARTS TO REBUILD HIS OWN BODY.

AHA.

HE'S DONE THIS SEVERAL TIMES.

BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST DROID WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED WHO HAS SURVIVED THE PROCESS.

IF VADER HAS ANY OF YOUR PARTS STILL INSTALLED...

...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM IF I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH.

Now.

NICE WORK, BOSS!

JUST LETTING THE BIGGEST PREDATOR IN THE ROOM KNOW WHERE I AM, OCHI...

YOU KNOW, FOR SOMEONE WHO'S PRETTY SURE VADER'S GONNA *KILL* HER, YOU SURE DO *TALK* A LOT TO HIM.

...SO I DON'T GET *BLAMED* FOR WHATEVER *ELSE* GOES DOWN.

VWWWW

TING

HNN!

TZZZT

HYAAA!

SKLAAAANNNG

NOW, FRIENDS!

BRRAZZAAAMMM

BRRZZAAAAM

BRAKKA BRAKKA

BRAKKA BRAKKA

BRAKOOOSH

BRZZAAAM

THAT'S IT! KEEP ON FIRING!

HE'S PINNED IN PLACE!

THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN--

IZZZ

?

HNNNN.

AREX, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO--

GAH!

SKAAAAG

AREX, NO!

ZED! I THOUGHT AREX WAS SUPPOSED TO CONTROL VADER!

WELL, YES. BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THIS IS A BRILLIANT SETUP FOR THE TRUE PLAN!

WHAT'S THE TRUE PLAN?

SKRRR

AAAAKKT

TO DELIVER YOU ALL TO LORD VADER, OF COURSE.

AWWW!

WAIT...YOU WERE SERVING VADER ALL THIS TIME?

LYING TO ALL THESE DROIDS, JUST TO BRING THEM TO SLAUGHTER?

CORRECT.

IMPRESSIVE.

FTOOM

FTOOM

FTOOM

TRIPLE-ZERO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BRZZZAM BRZZZAM

BRZZAM

YOU WERE BETRAYED TOO!

YES, OUGHT-SIX...

...AND NOW I'M CHOOSING THE WINNING SIDE.

AND IT'LL ONLY TAKE ME ONE SHOT.

FT000000M

WHA--

GAH!

BAKKKOOM

I TOLD YOU WE LIKED A GOOD MURDER.

WHOM WE MURDER DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

YAAAAAA!

OCHI, I GOTTA ASK...

...DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ZED'S BIG PLAN?

COME ON, DOC.

NOBODY TELLS ME ANYTHING.

HUH. *SOMEONE'S* TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENT.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S AN *EXTRA SHIP.*

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE *LORD VADER* THAT EASILY?

I DUNNO. DEPENDS ON WHAT *YOU* DO.

YOU KNOW...

...I WORKED *REALLY* HARD TO GET RID OF *SABÉ* AND ALL THOSE *HANDMAIDENS.*

IF I DON'T HAVE TO *LIFT* A *FINGER* TO GET RID OF *YOU...*

...I GUESS I'M NOT LIFTING A FINGER.

HA.

YOU KNOW, YOU COULD COME TOO.

EH.

HE'LL KILL *YOU* SOMEDAY IF YOU STICK AROUND.

MAYBE. BUT HE HASN'T *TOLD* ME AS MUCH, LIKE HE'S TOLD *YOU. SEVERAL* TIMES.

SO I FIGURE FOR NOW, THE *SAFEST* PLACE I CAN BE IS NEXT TO THE *STRONGEST PERSON* IN THE GALAXY.

AND *NOBODY'S* STRONGER THAN VADER.

EXCEPT THE *EMPEROR.*

MAYBE. I MEAN, *PROBABLY.*

BUT MOSTLY, VADER GETS *MAD* AT THE EMPEROR.

THE ONLY TIME I'VE SEEN HIM ACT A LITTLE *SCARED...*

...IS WHEN SOMEONE MENTIONS THE *KID* WHO BLEW UP THE *DEATH STAR.*

REALLY?

BUT I'VE SEEN THAT FLYBOY IN ACTION. AND HE'S A *CHUMP.*

HE CAN'T SAVE YOU ONCE VADER'S GOT A *MARK* ON YOU.

NO ONE CAN.

TOO BAD.

YEAH. TOO BAD.

SKRRRRRRRRRSH

KRAAAKOOOOOOSS

HEY, BOSS!

THE MURDER DROIDS AND THE LIBRARIAN RAN OFF!

SHE'S AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, ACTUALLY.

WHATEVER.

SHOULD WE HUNT HER DOWN?

NO.

I HAVE WHAT I NEED FOR NOW.

REPAIR THIS...

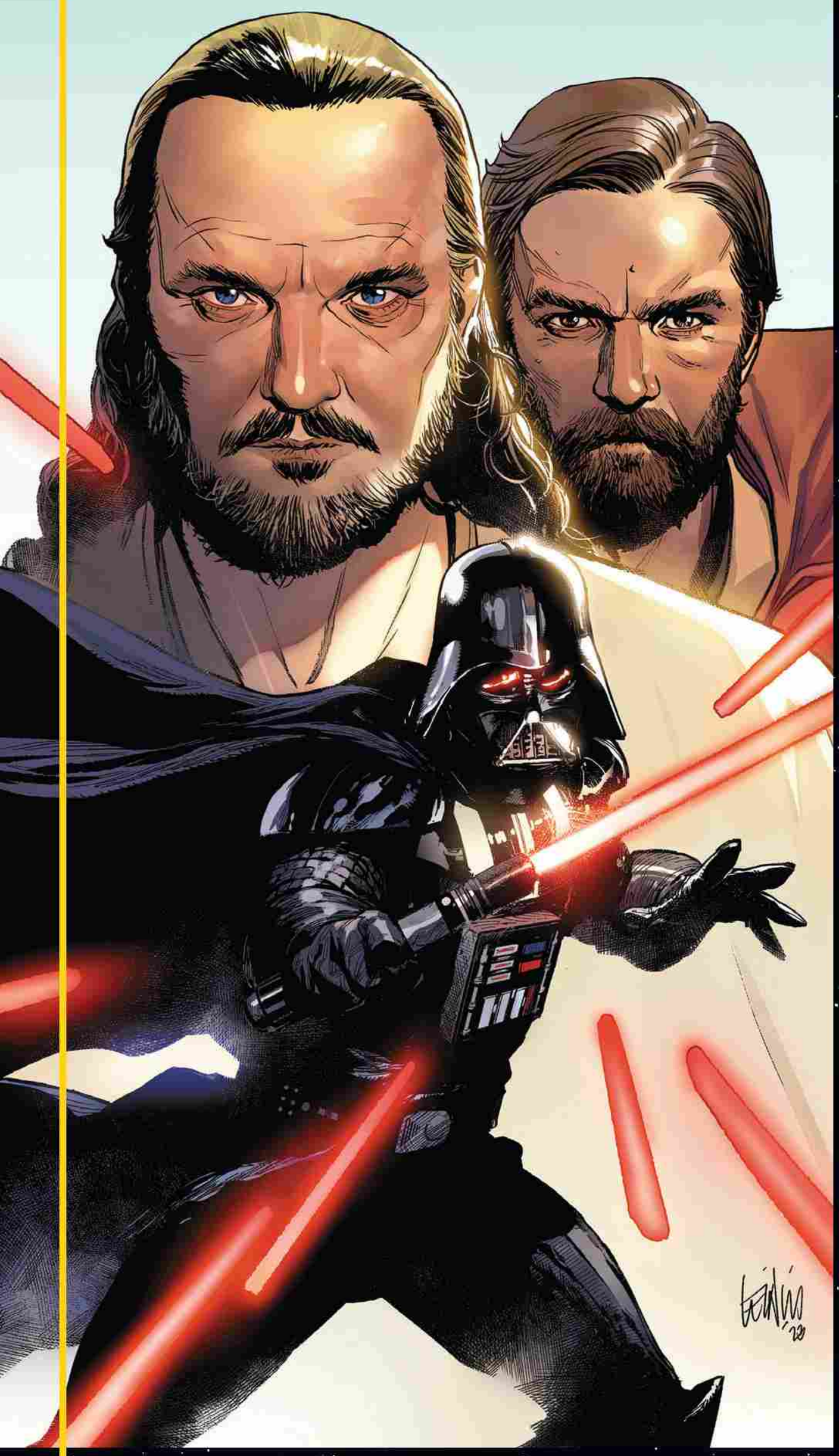
...SCRAP...

"...AND MY PREPARATIONS WILL BE COMPLETE."

Next: Dark Droids!

NEXT

DARTH VADER 37



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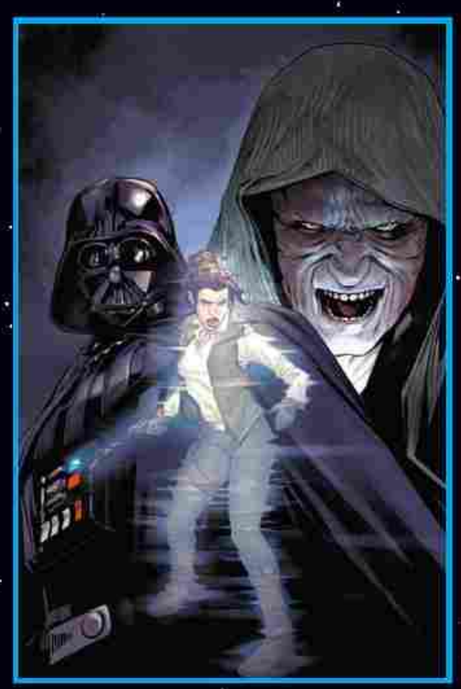

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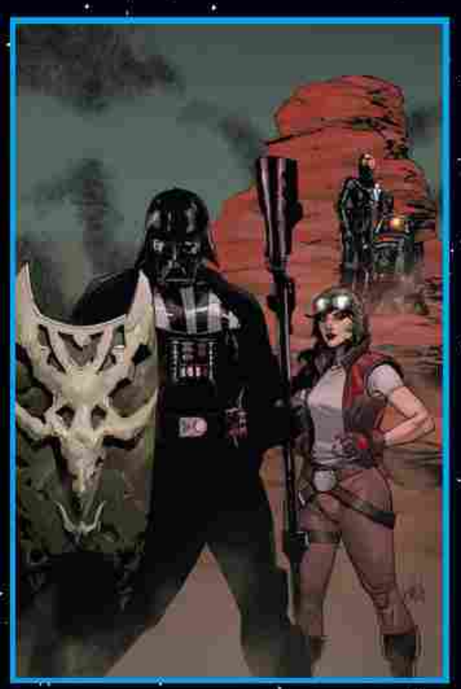

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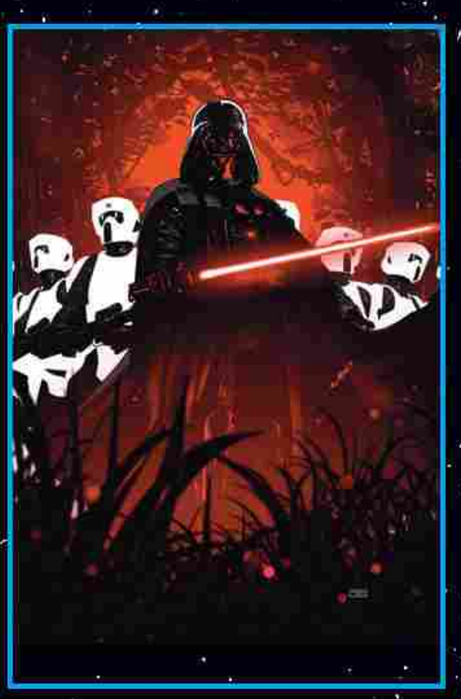

STAR WARS
DARTH VADER:
BLACK, WHITE &
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STAR WARS
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